

Union Calendar No. 176

116TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 2156

[Report No. 116-223]

To amend the Surface Mining Control and Reclamation Act of 1977 to provide funds to States and Indian tribes for the purpose of promoting economic revitalization, diversification, and development in economically distressed communities through the reclamation and restoration of land and water resources adversely affected by coal mining carried out before August 3, 1977, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

APRIL 9, 2019

Mr. CARTWRIGHT (for himself, Mr. ROGERS of Kentucky, Mr. BEYER, and Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Natural Resources

OCTOBER 4, 2019

Additional sponsors: Mr. RYAN, Mr. YARMUTH, Mr. LOWENTHAL, Mr. PETERS, Mr. HUFFMAN, Mr. FLEISCHMANN, Mrs. BUSTOS, Mr. TONKO, Mr. BRENDAN F. BOYLE of Pennsylvania, Mr. Sires, Mr. BLUMENAUER, Mr. GRIJALVA, Ms. CASTOR of Florida, Mr. BEN RAY LUJÁN of New Mexico, Mr. FITZPATRICK, Mr. MEUSER, Mr. KRISHNAMOORTHI, Mr. MICHAEL F. DOYLE of Pennsylvania, Ms. SEWELL of Alabama, Ms. HAALAND, Mr. GALLEGUO, Mr. VAN DREW, Mr. LAMB, Ms. WILD, Mr. SOTO, Mr. GUTHRIE, Mr. STIVERS, Mr. MCKINLEY, Ms. DEAN, Mr. DAVID P. ROE of Tennessee, Mr. KELLY of Pennsylvania, Mr. GRIFFITH, Mr. JOHNSON of Ohio, Mr. ROUDA, Ms. SCANLON, Mr. HIMES, Mr. COHEN, Mr. CONNOLLY, Ms. HOULAHAN, Mr. MCEACHIN, Mr. FOSTER, Ms. KELLY of Illinois, Mr. WELCH, Mr. QUIGLEY, Mr. KILMER, Mrs. AXNE, Mr. EVANS, Mr. ESPAILLAT, Mr. HASTINGS, Mr. DESJARLAIS, Ms. DEGETTE, Mr. HECK, Mr. PERLMUTTER, Ms. PINGREE, Mr. CASE, Ms. BROWNLEY of California, Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, Mr. BURCHETT, Ms. DELBENE, Ms. SLOTKIN, Mr. RICHMOND, and Mr. CROW

OCTOBER 4, 2019

Reported with an amendment, committed to the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union, and ordered to be printed

[Strike out all after the enacting clause and insert the part printed in italic]

[For text of introduced bill, see copy of bill as introduced on April 9, 2019]

A BILL

To amend the Surface Mining Control and Reclamation Act of 1977 to provide funds to States and Indian tribes for the purpose of promoting economic revitalization, diversification, and development in economically distressed communities through the reclamation and restoration of land and water resources adversely affected by coal mining carried out before August 3, 1977, and for other purposes.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled*

3 SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

*4 This Act may be cited as the “Revitalizing the Econ-
5 omy of Coal Communities by Leveraging Local Activities
6 and Investing More Act of 2019” or the “RECLAIM Act
7 of 2019”.*

8 SEC. 2. ECONOMIC REVITALIZATION FOR COAL COUNTRY.

9 (a) *IN GENERAL.*—Title IV of the Surface Mining
10 Control and Reclamation Act of 1977 (30 U.S.C. 1231 et
11 seq.) is amended by adding at the end the following:

12 "SEC. 416. ABANDONED MINE LAND ECONOMIC REVITALIZA-

14 “(a) *PURPOSE.*—The purpose of this section is to pro-
15 mote economic revitalization, diversification, and develop-
16 ment in economically distressed mining communities
17 through the reclamation and restoration of land and water
18 resources adversely affected by coal mining carried out be-
19 fore August 3, 1977.

“(b) IN GENERAL.—From amounts deposited into the fund under section 401(b) before October 1, 2007, and not otherwise appropriated to the extent such funds are available, \$200,000,000 shall be made available to the Secretary, without further appropriation, for each of fiscal years 2020 through 2024 for distribution to States and Indian tribes

1 *in accordance with this section for reclamation and restora-*
2 *tion projects at sites identified as priorities under section*
3 *403(a): Provided, That if less than \$200,000,000 is avail-*
4 *able in any fiscal year to the Secretary, such remaining*
5 *amount shall be made available to the Secretary, without*
6 *further appropriation, and such fiscal year shall end dis-*
7 *tributions made available under this section.*

8 “(c) USE OF FUNDS.—Funds distributed to a State
9 or Indian tribe under subsection (d) shall be used only for
10 projects classified under the priorities of section 403(a) that
11 meet the following criteria:

12 “(1) CONTRIBUTION TO FUTURE ECONOMIC OR
13 COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT.—

14 “(A) IN GENERAL.—The project, upon com-
15 pletion of reclamation, is intended to create fa-
16 vorable conditions for the economic development
17 of the project site or create favorable conditions
18 that promote the general welfare through eco-
19 nomic and community development of the area
20 in which the project is conducted.

21 “(B) DEMONSTRATION OF CONDITIONS.—
22 Such conditions are demonstrated by—

23 “(i) documentation of the role of the
24 project in such area’s economic development

1 *strategy or other economic and community*
2 *development planning process;*

3 “(ii) any other documentation of the
4 planned economic and community use of the
5 project site after the primary reclamation
6 activities are completed, which may include
7 contracts, agreements in principle, or other
8 evidence that, once reclaimed, the site is
9 reasonably anticipated to be used for one or
10 more industrial, commercial, residential,
11 agricultural, or recreational purposes; or

12 “(iii) any other documentation agreed
13 to by the State or Indian tribe that dem-
14 onstrates the project will meet the criteria
15 set forth in this subsection.

16 “(2) **LOCATION IN ECONOMICALLY DISTRESSED**
17 **COMMUNITY AFFECTED BY RECENT DECLINE IN MIN-**
18 **ING.**—

19 “(A) **IN GENERAL.**—*The project will be con-*
20 *ducted in a community—*

21 “(i) *that has been adversely affected*
22 *economically by a recent reduction in coal*
23 *mining related activity, as demonstrated by*
24 *employment data, per capita income, or*
25 *other indicators of economic distress; or*

1 “(ii)(I) that has historically relied on
2 coal mining for a substantial portion of its
3 economy; and

4 “(II) in which the economic contribu-
5 tion of coal mining has significantly de-
6 clined.

7 “(B) SUBMISSION AND PUBLICATION OF
8 EVIDENCE OR ANALYSIS.—Any evidence or anal-
9 ysis relied upon in selecting the location of a
10 project under this subparagraph shall be sub-
11 mitted to the Secretary for publication. The Sec-
12 retary shall publish such evidence or analysis in
13 the Federal Register within 30 days after receiv-
14 ing such submission.

15 “(3) STAKEHOLDER COLLABORATION.—

16 “(A) IN GENERAL.—The project has been
17 the subject of project planning under subsection
18 (g) and has been the focus of collaboration, in-
19 cluding partnerships, as appropriate, with inter-
20 ested persons or local organizations.

21 “(B) PUBLIC NOTICE.—As part of project
22 planning—

23 “(i) the public has been notified of the
24 project and has been given an opportunity
25 to comment at a public meeting convened in

1 *a community near the proposed project site;*
2 *and*

3 “*(ii) the State or Indian tribe pub-*
4 *lished notice of such meetings in local news-*
5 *papers of general circulation, on the Inter-*
6 *net, and by any other means considered de-*
7 *sirable by the Secretary.*

8 “(C) *ELECTRONIC NOTIFICATION.—The*
9 *State or Indian tribe established a way for inter-*
10 *ested persons to receive electronically all public*
11 *notices issued under subparagraph (B) and any*
12 *written declarations submitted to the Secretary*
13 *under paragraph (5).*

14 “(4) *ELIGIBLE APPLICANTS.—The project has*
15 *been proposed by entities of State, local, county, or*
16 *tribal governments, or local organizations, and will be*
17 *approved and executed by State or tribal programs,*
18 *approved under section 405 or referred to in section*
19 *402(g)(8)(B), which may include subcontracting*
20 *project-related activities, as appropriate.*

21 “(5) *WAIVER.—If the State or Indian tribe—*

22 “(A) *cannot provide documentation de-*
23 *scribed in paragraph (1)(B) for a project con-*
24 *ducted under a priority stated in paragraph (1)*
25 *or (2) of section 403(a), or*

1 “(B) is unable to meet the requirements
2 under paragraph (2),
3 the State or Indian tribe shall submit a written dec-
4 laration to the Secretary requesting an exemption
5 from the requirements of those subparagraphs. The
6 declaration must explain why achieving favorable
7 conditions for economic or community development at
8 the project site is not practicable, or why the require-
9 ments of paragraph (2) cannot be met, and that suffi-
10 cient funds distributed annually under section 401
11 are not available to implement the project. Such re-
12 quest for an exemption is deemed to be approved, ex-
13 cept the Secretary shall deny such request if the Sec-
14 retary determines the declaration to be substantially
15 inadequate. Any denial of such request shall be re-
16 solved at the State’s or Indian tribe’s request through
17 the procedures described in subsection (e).

18 “(d) DISTRIBUTION OF FUNDS.—

19 “(1) UNCERTIFIED STATES.—

20 “(A) IN GENERAL.—From the amount made
21 available in subsection (b), the Secretary shall
22 distribute \$195,000,000 annually for each of fis-
23 cal years 2020 through 2024 to States and In-
24 dian tribes that have a State or tribal program
25 approved under section 405 or are referred to in

1 section 402(g)(8)(B), and have not made a cer-
2 tification under section 411(a) in which the Sec-
3 retary has concurred, as follows:

4 “(i) Four-fifths of such amount shall be
5 distributed based on the proportion of the
6 amount of coal historically produced in
7 each State or from the lands of each Indian
8 tribe concerned before August 3, 1977.

9 “(ii) One-fifth of such amount shall be
10 distributed based on the proportion of rec-
11 lamation fees paid during the period of fis-
12 cal years 2012 through 2016 for lands in
13 each State or lands of each Indian tribe
14 concerned.

15 “(B) SUPPLEMENTAL FUNDS.—Funds dis-
16 tributed under this section—

17 “(i) shall be in addition to, and shall
18 not affect, the amount of funds distrib-
19 uted—

20 “(I) to States and Indian tribes
21 under section 401(f); and

22 “(II) to States and Indian tribes
23 that have made a certification under
24 section 411(a) in which the Secretary

1 *has concurred, subject to the cap de-*
2 *scribed in section 402(i)(3); and*

3 *“(ii) shall not reduce any funds dis-*
4 *tributed to a State or Indian tribe by rea-*
5 *son of the application of section 402(g)(8).*

6 **“(2) ADDITIONAL FUNDING TO CERTAIN STATES**

7 *AND INDIAN TRIBES.—*

8 *“(A) ELIGIBILITY.—From the amount made*
9 *available in subsection (b), the Secretary shall*
10 *distribute \$5,000,000 annually for each of the*
11 *five fiscal years beginning with fiscal year 2020*
12 *to States and Indian tribes that have a State*
13 *program approved under section 405 and have*
14 *made a certification under section 411(a) in*
15 *which the Secretary has concurred.*

16 *“(B) APPLICATION FOR FUNDS.—Using the*
17 *process in section 405(f), any State or Indian*
18 *tribe described in subparagraph (A) may submit*
19 *a grant application to the Secretary for funds*
20 *under this paragraph. The Secretary shall review*
21 *each grant application to confirm that the*
22 *projects identified in the application for funding*
23 *are eligible under subsection (c).*

24 *“(C) DISTRIBUTION OF FUNDS.—The*
25 *amount of funds distributed to each State or In-*

1 *dian tribe under this paragraph shall be deter-*
2 *mined by the Secretary based on the dem-*
3 *onstrated need for the funding to accomplish the*
4 *purpose of this section.*

5 “(3) *REALLOCATION OF UNCOMMITTED FUNDS.*—

6 “(A) *COMMITTED DEFINED.*—For purposes
7 of this paragraph the term ‘committed’—

8 “(i) means that funds received by the
9 *State or Indian tribe—*

10 “(I) have been exclusively applied
11 *to or reserved for a specific project and*
12 *therefore are not available for any*
13 *other purpose; or*

14 “(II) have been expended or des-
15 *ignated by the State or Indian tribe*
16 *for the completion of a project;*

17 “(ii) includes use of any amount for
18 *project planning under subsection (g); and*

19 “(iii) reflects an acknowledgment by
20 *Congress that, based on the documentation*
21 *required under subsection (c)(2)(B), any*
22 *unanticipated delays to commit such funds*
23 *that are outside the control of the State or*
24 *Indian tribe concerned shall not affect its*
25 *allocations under this section.*

1 “(B) *FISCAL YEARS 2023 AND 2024.*—For
2 *each of fiscal years 2023 and 2024, the Secretary*
3 *shall reallocate in accordance with subparagraph*
4 *(D) any amount available for distribution under*
5 *this subsection that has not been committed to el-*
6 *igible projects in the preceding 2 fiscal years,*
7 *among the States and Indian tribes that have*
8 *committed to eligible projects the full amount of*
9 *their annual allocation for the preceding fiscal*
10 *year.*

11 “(C) *FISCAL YEAR 2025.*—For fiscal year
12 *2025, the Secretary shall reallocate in accordance*
13 *with subparagraph (D) any amount available*
14 *for distribution under this subsection that has*
15 *not been committed to eligible projects or distrib-*
16 *uted under paragraph (1)(A), among the States*
17 *and Indian tribes that have committed to eligible*
18 *projects the full amount of their annual alloca-*
19 *tion for the preceding fiscal years.*

20 “(D) *AMOUNT OF REALLOCATION.*—The
21 *amount reallocated to each State or Indian tribe*
22 *under each of subparagraphs (B) and (C) shall*
23 *be determined by the Secretary to reflect, to the*
24 *extent practicable—*

1 “(i) the proportion of unreclaimed eli-
2 gible lands and waters the State or Indian
3 tribe has in the inventory maintained
4 under section 403(c);

5 “(ii) the average of the proportion of
6 reclamation fees paid for lands in each
7 State or lands of each Indian tribe con-
8 cerned; and

9 “(iii) the proportion of coal mining
10 employment loss incurred in the State or on
11 lands of the Indian tribe, respectively, as
12 determined by the Mine Safety and Health
13 Administration, over the 5-year period pre-
14 ceding the fiscal year for which the realloca-
15 tion is made.

16 “(e) *RESOLUTION OF SECRETARY'S CONCERNS; CON-*
17 *GRESSIONAL NOTIFICATION.*—If the Secretary does not
18 agree with a State or Indian tribe that a proposed project
19 meets the criteria set forth in subsection (c)—

20 “(1) the Secretary and the State or tribe shall
21 meet and confer for a period of not more than 45
22 days to resolve the Secretary's concerns, except that
23 such period may be shortened by the Secretary if the
24 Secretary's concerns are resolved;

1 “(2) during that period, at the State’s or Indian
2 tribe’s request, the Secretary may consult with any
3 appropriate Federal agency; and

4 “(3) at the end of that period, if the Secretary’s
5 concerns are not resolved the Secretary shall provide
6 to the Committee on Natural Resources of the House
7 of Representatives and the Committee on Energy and
8 Natural Resources of the Senate an explanation of the
9 concerns and such project proposal shall not be eligi-
10 ble for funds distributed under this section.

11 “(f) ACID MINE DRAINAGE TREATMENT.—

12 “(1) IN GENERAL.—Subject to paragraph (2), a
13 State or Indian tribe that receives funds under this
14 section may use up to 30 percent of such funds as
15 necessary to supplement the State’s or tribe’s acid
16 mine drainage abatement and treatment fund estab-
17 lished under section 402(g)(6)(A), for future operation
18 and maintenance costs for the treatment of acid mine
19 drainage associated with the individual projects fund-
20 ed under this section. A State or Indian tribe shall
21 specify the total funds allotted for such costs in its
22 application submitted under subsection (d)(2)(B).

23 “(2) CONDITION.—A State or Indian tribe may
24 use funds under this subsection only if the State or
25 tribe can demonstrate that the annual grant distrib-

1 *uted to the State or tribe pursuant to section 401(f),*
2 *including any interest from the State's or tribe's acid*
3 *mine drainage abatement and treatment fund that is*
4 *not used for the operation or maintenance of pre-*
5 *existing acid mine drainage treatment systems, is in-*
6 *sufficient to fund the operation and maintenance of*
7 *any acid mine drainage treatment system associated*
8 *with an individual project funded under this section.*

9 “*(g) PROJECT PLANNING AND ADMINISTRATION.—*

10 “*(1) STATES AND INDIAN TRIBES.—*

11 “*(A) IN GENERAL.—A State or Indian tribe*
12 *may use up to 10 percent of its annual distribu-*
13 *tion under this section for project planning and*
14 *the costs of administering this section.*

15 “*(B) PLANNING REQUIREMENTS.—Planning*
16 *under this paragraph may include—*

17 “*(i) identifying eligible projects;*

18 “*(ii) updating the inventory referred to*
19 *in section 403(c);*

20 “*(iii) developing project designs;*

21 “*(iv) collaborating with stakeholders,*
22 *including public meetings;*

23 “*(v) preparing cost estimates; or*

1 “(vi) engaging in other similar activities necessary to facilitate reclamation activities under this section.

4 “(2) SECRETARY.—The Secretary may expend, from amounts made available to the Secretary under section 402(g)(3)(D), not more than \$3,000,000 during the fiscal years for which distributions occur under subsection (b) for staffing and other administrative expenses necessary to carry out this section.

10 “(h) REPORT TO CONGRESS.—The Secretary shall provide to the Committee on Natural Resources of the House of Representatives, the Committees on Appropriations of the House of Representatives and the Senate, and the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources of the Senate at the end of each fiscal year for which such funds are distributed a detailed report—

17 “(1) on the various projects that have been undertaken with such funds;

19 “(2) the extent and degree of reclamation using such funds that achieved the priorities described in paragraph (1) or (2) of section 403(a);

22 “(3) the community and economic benefits that are resulting from, or are expected to result from, the use of the funds that achieved the priorities described in paragraph (3) of section 403(a); and

1 “(4) the reduction since the previous report in
2 the inventory referred to in section 403(c).

3 “(i) **PROHIBITION ON CERTAIN USE OF FUNDS.**—Any
4 State or Indian tribe that uses the funds distributed under
5 this section for purposes other than reclamation or drainage
6 abatement expenditures, as made eligible by section 404,
7 and for the purposes authorized under subsections (f) and
8 (g), shall be barred from receiving any subsequent funding
9 under this section.”.

10 (b) **CLERICAL AMENDMENT.**—The table of contents in
11 the first section of the Surface Mining Control and Rec-
12 lamation Act of 1977 is amended by adding at the end of
13 the items relating to title IV the following:

“Sec. 416. Abandoned mine land economic revitalization.”.

14 **SEC. 3. TECHNICAL AND CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.**

15 The Surface Mining Control and Reclamation Act of
16 1977 is amended—

17 (1) in section 401(c) (30 U.S.C. 1231(c)), by
18 striking “and” after the semicolon at the end of para-
19 graph (10), by redesignating paragraph (11) as para-
20 graph (12), and by inserting after paragraph (10) the
21 following:

22 “(11) to implement section 416; and”;
23 (2) in section 401(d)(3) (30 U.S.C. 1231(d)(3)),
24 by striking “subsection (f)” and inserting “subsection
25 (f) and section 416(a)”;

1 (3) in section 402(g) (30 U.S.C. 1232(g))—
2 (A) in paragraph (1), by inserting “and
3 section 416” after “subsection (h)”; and
4 (B) by adding at the end of paragraph (3)
5 the following:
6 “(F) For the purpose of section
7 416(d)(2)(A).”; and
8 (4) in section 403(c) (30 U.S.C. 1233(c)), by in-
9 serting after the second sentence the following: “As
10 practicable, States and Indian tribes shall offer such
11 amendments based on the use of remote sensing, global
12 positioning systems, and other advanced tech-
13 nologies.”.

14 **SEC. 4. MINIMUM STATE PAYMENTS.**

15 Section 402(g)(8)(A) of the Surface Mining Control
16 and Reclamation Act of 1977 (30 U.S.C. 1232(g)(8)) is
17 amended by striking “\$3,000,000” and inserting
18 “\$5,000,000”.

19 **SEC. 5. GAO STUDY OF USE OF FUNDS.**

20 Not later than two years after the date of the enact-
21 ment of this Act, the Comptroller General of the United
22 States shall study and report to the Congress on uses of
23 funds authorized by this Act, including regarding—

24 (1) the solvency of the Abandoned Mine Rec-
25 lamation Fund; and

1 (2) the impact of such use on payments and
2 transfers under the Surface Mining Control and Rec-
3 lamation Act of 1977 (30 U.S.C. 1201) to—

4 (A) States for which a certification has been
5 made under section 411 of such Act (30 U.S.C.
6 1241);

7 (B) States for which such a certification has
8 not been made; and

9 (C) transfers to United Mine Workers of
10 America Combined Benefit Fund.

11 **SEC. 6. PAYMENTS TO CERTIFIED STATES NOT AFFECTED.**

12 Nothing in this Act shall be construed to reduce or oth-
13 erwise affect payments under section 402(g) of the Surface
14 Mining Reclamation and Control Act of 1977 (30 U.S.C.
15 1232(g)) to States that have made a certification under sec-
16 tion 411(a) of such Act (30 U.S.C. 1240a(a)) in which the
17 Secretary of the Interior has concurred.

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